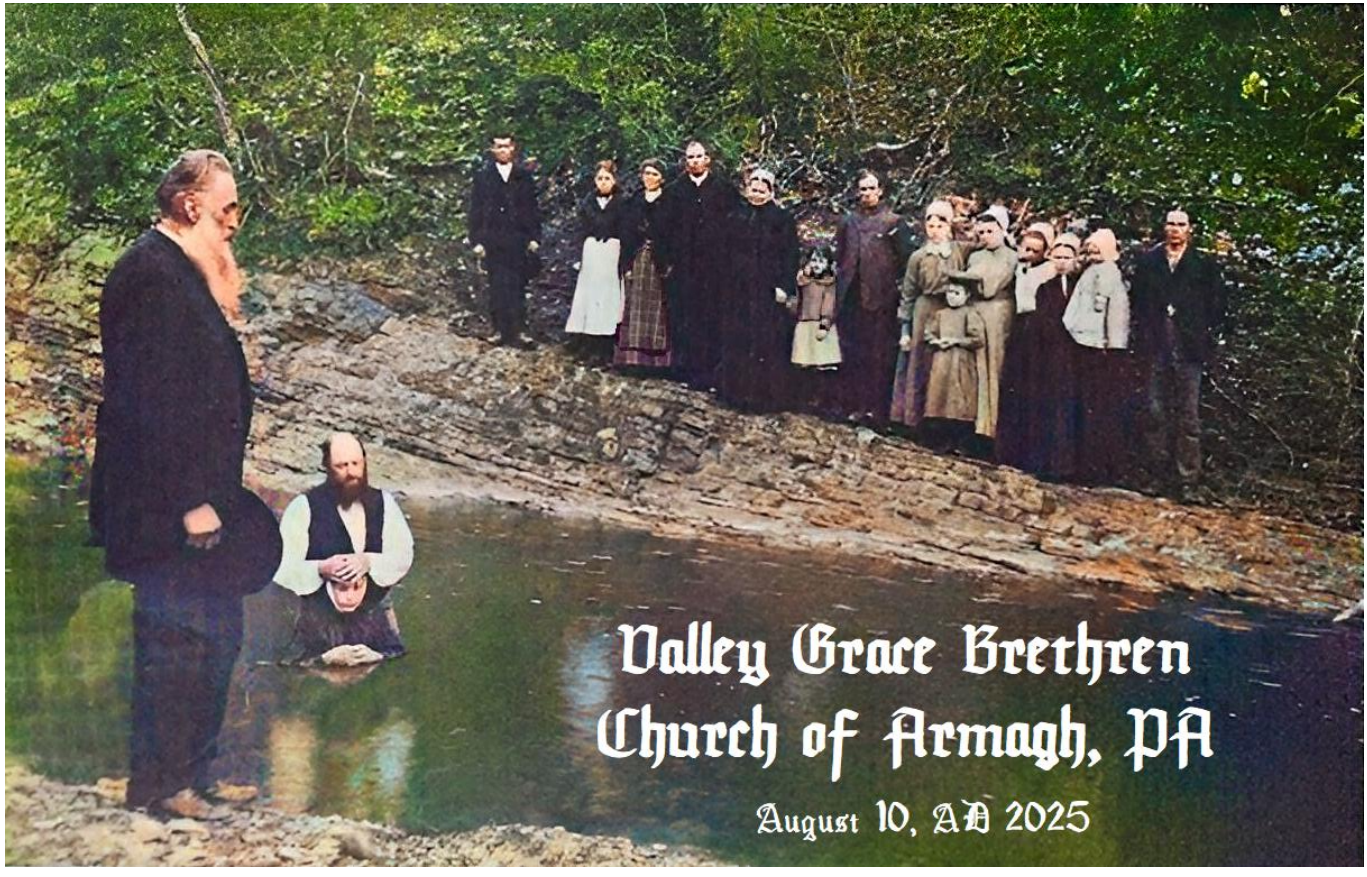

"...into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"

THE LORD'S DAY

The Tenth Day of August, *in the Year of our Lord* 2025

- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Glory be the Father"* (#559).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* (#37).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Matt. 28:8-10; 16-20.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Higher Ground"* (#280).

Announcemnts.

Hymn: *"Christ Liveth in Me"* (#191).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Message: *"BAPTISM: THE TRINITARIAN CONFESSION."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Alleluia"* (#516).

Benediction.*

Stewardship a way of life

Week of Aug. 3 – Aug. 9

Sunday School—8; Morning Worship—16;
Midweek—7; Weekly Offering—$429.05

Cover Illustration: Dunker Baptism, Virginia, 1905.

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study: Thurs., 6:30PM.

Africa Update (7/29/25): Keith Merriman

Hello again beloved brethren,

On a brighter note!

Pastor Roger says he has 3 new practorium students attending his daytime classes. Pray that these men will be faithful and do well.

They have planted another church in Kampala with three new families and they had a salvation decision and baptism recently at the church. Praise the Lord.

Roger also said he spoke with Pastor Gilbert Amaswache in Kenya and said that Gilbert continues to feel better with the treatments he is receiving for his prostate cancer. Thanks to your gifts to the emergency relief fund we have been able to pay the $200 a month for the treatments.

Roger also asked us to pray for one of the pastors in Democratic Republic of Congo who is ill pastor Ehusha. His wife is also ill.

Thanks as always for your prayers and continued financial support!

God bless, Keith

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAPTISMAL SERVICE: Morning Worship, August 24!

GUEST SPEAKER: One of the Zambuto brothers (Dave or Joe) will be filling in for the Pastor. Please come and encourage this brother!

GIDEON SUNDAY: A special guest from the Gideons International will be sharing what God is doing through that great worldwide ministry.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Ps. 88:14b: "Why do You hide Your face from me?"

Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC of Armagh, PA; 8/9/25

There is a trite sort of response to human suffering and depression that offers pat and formulaic answers to *everything*. But then there's the *real* world, where even the greatest champions of the faith, from Elijah to Spurgeon, have descended into a terrifying maelstrom of blackest despair—*"the dark night of the soul."* Our Bible**,** stamped with the imprimatur of *total authenticity*, always "tells it like it is"—and *life is sometimes like this*.

Thus, we have **Psalm 88**—what R.E.O. White has labelled the "darkest corner of the Psalter," or what Brueggemann has aptly called "an embarrassment to conventional faith." As with Job, the Psalmist's *"soul has been saturated with calamities"* (v. 3)—physical, emotional, and spiritual—as he attempts to *endure*, amidst a nightmare of isolation and personal abandonment. This is a Psalm to reflect upon when God seems silent and distant in the face of unmitigated disaster. We *need* a word such as this, because *life is sometimes like this*.

Many of the Psalms deal with the issue of abandonment and despair—but here, there is no indication of some impending resolution. Further, there is not even the hint of a "rational explanation" or theological analysis of some sort that clarifies the reasons behind the Psalmist's suffering. *Life is sometimes like this*.

But even if God is silent, the Psalmist is *not!* Though feeling abandoned by Heaven, he will not—indeed, he *cannot*—abandon Heaven! He *persists* (Luke 18:1-8) in his outcry, giving voice to Pain. He seeks, he knocks—he clings to the hem of the Lord's garment. He *cannot* loosen his grasp and *remain himself*. What *else* can he be? And so, Faith prevails; God remains *"the God of my salvation"* (v. 1).